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THE INDIAN LANDS.

[From the HAMILTON SPECTATOR, October 4th, 1848.]

THE following documents have been handed us for insertion. The case has excited a great deal of attention in this city and along the Grand River, and the correspondence is doubtless interesting to the parties more immediately concerned :—

[COPY.] No. 13.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES BRUCE, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,—In the Memorials I have had the honor of addressing to your Lordship, the painful duty has been forced upon me of detailing the hardships, sufferings, and deep distress in which a very numerous body of Her Most Gracious Majesty's dutiful, loyal, and industrious subjects, have been involved, by the mistakes, blunders, or something worse, of the Officers connected with the Crown Lands' Departments.

My last one handed your Lordship, by that devoted friend of the poor emigrant, the Hon. ADAM FERRIE, in which was set forth the further hardship of illegal incarceration in the common gaol of this place, together with a prayer for liberation from such cruel incarceration, under my then peculiar position, has met with no reply.

I should not have deemed it necessary to trouble your Lordship at present any further in the matter, but the following will be my apology:—

Learning, on my last visit to Montreal, that this matter of dispute, regarding the Indians and their lands, was an Imperial question, and could not be disposed of by any authority here; and having, in former Memorials, prayed that the various documents connected with the matter may be transmitted for the consideration of Her Majesty, I should have been disposed to await the issue of such application.

My incarceration of last January, for 30 days, at the very time my wife was expecting in a few weeks to become a mother, called forth a letter to her friends in London, and directing attention to the documents and promise in the following :—

[No. 1.] "LONDON, 2nd April, 1847.

"The petition from Mr. Cheshire, with all other documents, have been sent to the Colonial Office, one of the Clerks promised they should be placed before Lord Grey. The Clerk said, Mr.C.'s petition was too long, but that *he would put it into proper form* for Lord Grey. He also said, that whatever was done, would be by instructions sent out to Canada.

(Signed) "R. P. BICKERTON."

[No. 2.] "34, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, "June 6th, 1848.

"SIR,—Enclosed is the answer I have received from Mr. Hawes, to the enquiry I addressed to the Colonial Office at your request. I may mention, that previous to writing, I spoke to Mr. Hawes, and showed him the passages you pointed out to me in the pamphlet, relating to the case of Mr. Cheshire.

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) "DUDLEY COUTTS STUART.

"R. P. BICKERTON, Esq"

[No. 3.] "COLONIAL OFFICE, June 5, 1848.

"DEAR LORD DUDLEY,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 31st ult., in which you have called my attention to the ejectment of Mr. Cheshire from certain lands in Canada. I have caused a search to be made among our records, and I can now safely say, that we possess no information upon the subject.

"It is possible that Mr. Cheshire, owing to imperfect survey of lands, has had lots assigned to him which in reality belonged to the Indians, and from which, when the fact was ascertained, he has been ejected.

"Questions of this kind being entirely under the control of the local government, it is to Lord Elgin that Mr. Cheshire must apply for redress.

"Believe me, very faithfully yours,

(Signed) "B. HAWES.

"To Lord DUDLEY STUART."

I have therefore, my Lord, thought it a duty I owe to myself, fellow-settlers whom I represent, and to others taking a deep interest in this matter, thus publicly to lay the matter before your Lordship; at the same time, calling attention to the proceedings now going on here in the Court of Queen's Bench; as also other presentments for riot, on the part of the Indians, the particulars of which, I presume, will come more fully under the attention of your Lordship, through other and more important channels than, my Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most Obed't. Humble Serv't,

F. J. CHESHIRE.

City of Hamilton, Oct. 3rd, 1848.

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F. J. Cheshire
7 Mar[illegible] / 18 Avril 1849

1. Indian Equalia[?] Com —

Honorable R. Baldwin M.pp
Montreal

SENECA 14 April 1849 U.C.

MONTREAL AP 18 1849 L.C.

1848 CHESHIRE

SHIRE

Hamilton March 7th 1849

Sir

Some time ago whilst discussing the subjects of settlers on Lands in Fuscarora &c at the Inn of Mr Roach in Caledonia. the Stage arrived and by it a Gentleman who became very shortly a most attentive listener to my detail of the hardships and sufferings of these poor fellows – The remark of "The Stage being ready Mr Sullivan" and being then on my way to Toronto to return the services of Mr S. I addressed you thereupon and found out the mistake – you however entered very kindly into the affair and perused with much interest the printed documents I then placed in your hands – promising in parting that in case the settlers did not receive at the hands of the Government the justice which was so loudly called for and the Matter should be introduced to the notice of their representatives in Parliament. you would give it all your support and influence – It was so introduced – you supported the Petition and also a second one rendered necessary by the false allegations made upon the first in Committee – you also upon the presentation of that Petition prayed the House to dispense with its usual forms so as said Petition may be fully brought before it – prior to the anticipated speedy prorogation

That Petition printed by its order now lies before the House

The reasons for my not attending upon the next sitting of the House is explained in the Memorial No 13 to Lord Elgin printed copy subjoined. at which time I addressed to you a further petition to the House stating my position and praying its protection. believing such incarceration had been effected and that I had been thus singled out for the purpose of preventing my attendance in Montreal – In that letter I have

received no reply - nor am I aware of your having pre=
=sented such Petition - I am therefore at a loss to
understand our real position taking this in con=
=nection with a further position you have assumed of
holding me up to the world as an outlaw and offering
a Reward of 100 for my apprehension - and bearing
in mind your communication to me when I last saw
you in Toronto " Mr Cheshire there needs but few words
between us - I have made it a practice through life before
taking any case up first to consider if the cause was
just - I believe your cause to be a just one, and in
whatever position I may be placed, what is just that
will I do *

Under these circumstances I trust this
may be deemed no improper intrusion as I am most
anxious for myself and fellow Sufferers & Sufferers
to ascertain your intentions in reference to
Petitions now in your hands upon this very
important subject involving the interests of
so large a portion of Her Most Gracious Majesty's
subjects and with them collateral interests which
are deeply affected by these inexplicable proceedings

I am Sir
Your Obt Servt
T J Cheshire

Hon: Robt Baldwin
Montreal